

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A method of desalting raw water with at least a water-soluble salt contained therein, which comprises the following first and second steps:

- (1) removing water from said raw water to concentrate said raw water; and
- (2) removing at least a part of said water-soluble salt from the resulting concentrated raw water.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said first step and second step are conducted at the same time.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said raw water contains at least one kind of alkali metal ions or alkaline earth metal ions.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said concentrated raw water has a salt concentration in a range of from 10 wt.% to a saturation solubility of said salt.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said first step is conducted by evaporation and/or by using a reverse osmosis membrane.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said second step is conducted by using a charge mosaic membrane.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein said first step and second step are conducted at the same time by using a nanofiltration membrane.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said raw water contains a value.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said raw water is seawater or ocean deep water.

Claim 10 (Original): A method of desalinating ocean deep water, which comprises the following steps:

concentrating said ocean deep water by reduced-pressure evaporation until a concentration of a salt reaches a range of from 10 wt.% to a saturation solubility of said salt;

desalting the resulting concentrated ocean deep water through a charge mosaic membrane until said concentration of said salt is lowered to from 0.5 to 12 wt.%;

concentrating the resulting desalted ocean deep water by reduced-pressure evaporation until said concentration of said salt reaches a range of from 10 wt.% to said saturation solubility of said salt; and

desalting the resulting concentrated ocean deep water through a charge mosaic membrane until said concentration of said salt is lowered to from 0.1 to 1.0 wt.%.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method of desalinating ocean deep water, which comprises the following steps:

concentrating said ocean deep water through a reverse osmosis membrane until a concentration of a salt reaches a range of from 5 to 7 wt.%;

concentrating the resulting concentrated ocean deep water further by reduced-pressure evaporation until said concentration of said salt reaches a range of from 10 wt.% to said a saturation solubility of said salt; and

desalting the resulting concentrated ocean deep water through a charge mosaic membrane until said concentration of said salt is lowered to from 0.1 to 1.0 wt.%.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method of desalinating ocean deep water, which comprises the following steps:

concentrating said ocean deep water through a nanofiltration membrane until its volume is decreased to 1/5 to 1/50; and

desalting the resulting concentrated ocean deep water through a charge mosaic membrane until ~~said~~ a concentration of said salt is lowered to from 0.1 to 1.0 wt.%.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): Desalted water obtained by the method of ~~any one of claims 1-12~~ claim 1.

Claim 14 (Original): A desalting system comprising in combination at least one concentration unit, which is selected from a vacuum evaporator, an atmospheric evaporator, a reverse osmosis membrane unit or a nanofiltration membrane unit, and a charge mosaic membrane desalting unit.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The desalting system of claim 14, wherein said vacuum evaporator is at least one selected from the group consisting of a centrifugal-flow thin-film vacuum evaporator, a rotating heat-transfer surface vacuum evaporator, a high-speed spinning vacuum evaporator, a falling-film vacuum evaporator ~~or~~ and a wall-scraping vacuum evaporator.

Claim 16 (New): Desalted water obtained by the method of claim 10.

Claim 17 (New): Desalted water obtained by the method of claim 11.

Claim 18 (New): Desalted water obtained by the method of claim 12.